

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**July 27, 2015**

The Honorable Council of the City of Evansville met on regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2015 in the City Council Chambers, Room 301 Civic Center Complex, Evansville, Indiana, with President H. Dan Adams presiding. The following business was conducted.

**These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Audio recordings of this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office.**

**President Adams:** The Honorable Council of the City Of Evansville is hereby called to order. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**Absent:** Robinson

**President Adams:** There being eight (8) members present, one (1) member absent, and that representing a quorum, I hereby declare this session of the Common Council officially opened.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman O'Daniel, would you please lead the Pledge for me?

Fellow Councilmen and those in the audience, welcome to the July 27, 2015 meeting; the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of this year.

**COUNCIL ATTORNEY**

Council Attorney is the effervescent Scott Danks.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**

Sergeant Adams is the stalwart...Officer Afifi, colleague, friend and so.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 meeting of the Common Council?

**Councilwoman Mosby:** So moved.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Second.

**President Adams:** There's a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? So be it.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **IN YOUR JULY 23<sup>rd</sup> PACKET:**

- \* City Council Meeting Agenda and Committee Meeting Schedule for July 27, 2015
- \* Ordinances G-2015-20, R-2015-9 Amended/filed 07/17/15, R-2015-9 Amended/filed 07/14/15, R-2015-22, R-2015-23
- \* Weights and Measures Monthly Report from June – July 2015

### **EMAILED MATERIAL:**

- \* City Council Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2015
- \* Letter from Karen Builtman regarding the North Main Project

### **ON YOUR DESK THIS EVENING:**

- \* Extended Agenda
- \* Letter from Mike "Zip" Weimer
- \* Occupancy Report from the Convention & Visitor's Bureau

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to receive, file and make these reports and communications a part of the minutes of the meeting?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So moved.

**Councilwoman Mosby:** Second.

**President Adams:** We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **ORDINANCE G-2015-20**

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **LINDSEY**

An Ordinance to Amend the Fluoridation Standards for the City Water Supply in the City of Evansville, Indiana

#### **ORDINANCE F-2015-11**

#### **FINANCE**

#### **O'DANIEL**

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Evansville Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations, Additional Appropriations and Repeal and Re-Appropriation of Funds for Various City Funds

**President Adams:** I want to remind the public that this is an amendment of the fluoridation standards. We already have fluoride in our water and I just want people to understand that this is not a new chemical that we're putting in.

Is there a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written?

**Councilman Weaver:** So moved.

**President Adams:** Second?

**Councilwoman Mosby:** Second.

**President Adams:** Okay, thank you. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE G-2015-19 AMENDED      PUBLIC WORKS      ADAMS, McGINN,  
MOSBY, WEAVER**

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6.05 (Animal Control) of the Evansville Municipal Code

**ORDINANCE G-2015-21      PUBLIC WORKS      FRIEND**

An Ordinance to Vacate Certain Platted Easements within the Property Bounded by Diamond Avenue to the South, First Avenue to the East, Colorado Avenue Extended to the North, and N. Third Avenue Extended to the West with Common Address of 2500 N. First Avenue, Evansville, Indiana

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:**

#### **CHAIRMAN LINDSEY**

**Chairman Lindsey:** Mister President, your Public Works Committee met this evening to hear ***Ordinances G-2015-19 Amended*** and ***G-2015-21*** and they both come forward with a do-pass.

**President Adams:** Thank you. Is there a motion to adopt the Committee Reports and move the Ordinances to Third Reading?

**Councilman Weaver:** So moved.

**Councilman Lindsey:** Second.

**President Adams:** We have a motion and a second. Those in favor? Opposed? So moved.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**ORDINANCE G-2015-19 AMENDED      PUBLIC WORKS      ADAMS, McGINN,  
MOSBY, WEAVER**

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6.05 (Animal Control) of the Evansville Municipal Code

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2015-19 as amended?

**Councilwoman Mosby:** So moved.

**Councilman Friend:** Second.

**President Adams:** We have a motion and a second. Roll call please.

***Comments made prior to casting their respective votes:***

**Councilwoman Mosby:** I think this is a great start to help the overpopulation of cats, therefore I vote aye.

**President Adams:** I'd like to thank everybody that really worked hard on this one and I wasn't quite sure why the...there would be any resistance out at the zoo. I thought the wolves would take care of the indigent population pretty easily.

Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2015-19 Amended?

**Multiple Speakers:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

**President Adams:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**City Council Attorney Danks:** *(Off Mic)* It's up to you to vote.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* You've just got to vote.

**President Adams:** Okay, let's vote. I'll vote and we, therefore, will have that done.

*Applause*

**President Adams:** Thank you.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Aye:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**Absent:** Robinson

**President Adams:** There being eight (8) ayes and zero (0) nays, Ordinance G-2015-19 Amended is hereby declared adopted.

Stay with me folks. We've got a long night here night here and I'm already thinking about it.

Third Reading.

**ORDINANCE G-2015-21****PUBLIC WORKS****FRIEND**

An Ordinance to Vacate Certain Platted Easements within the Property Bounded by Diamond Avenue to the South, First Avenue to the East, Colorado Avenue Extended to the North, and N. Third Avenue Extended to the West with Common Address of 2500 N. First Avenue, Evansville, Indiana

**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adopt Ordinance G-2015-21?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So moved.

**Councilwoman Mosby:** Second.

**President Adams:** We have a motion and a second. Roll call please.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Aye:** McGinn, Mosby, Brinkerhoff-Riley, Friend, Lindsey, O'Daniel, Weaver, Adams

**Absent:** Robinson

**President Adams:** We have (8) ayes and zero (0) nays. Ordinance G-2015-21 is hereby adopted.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

The next meeting of the Common Council is Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. At this point, Committee meetings will begin at 5:20 p.m. but we may have a couple more additions to our Council meeting.

At this juncture we're going to start...we have at least four things to discuss tonight. We're going to start...if we could quiet it down outside please; I'd appreciate it. We're going to first hear now about ECHO Housing Corporation's Jacobsville Join In Initiative presentation.

*Speaking Simultaneously*

**Multiple Speakers:** *(Off Mic) (Loud but Inaudible)*

**Jennifer Mason:** Are we on? Can you hear me? Okay, great.

I'm Jennifer Mason. I am the Community Mobilizer for Jacobsville Join In and I've given you copies of the presentation that we're going to give tonight. I would like to invite the actual work group members. They're going to come up and actually give their piece for each of the work groups that we're working here in the neighborhood so if I could have...you guys go ahead and step up but I'll provide just a little bit of background just in case we need a refresher on the neighborhood of Jacobsville and what we're doing and I want to first thank Councilman Adams for inviting us here today to give some updates about the progress of the quality of life process that we're doing in Jacobsville.

So Jacobsville is about, roughly, 1.5 square miles. It encompasses Kleymeyer and Garvin Park. It sits between Garvin Street and First Avenue; Diamond Avenue and Division and has roughly 7,000 residents that live in the neighborhood and approximately 8,000 jobs in Jacobsville.

This is just some basic background information on community development and I really just wanted to point out the core values of the community development that we're doing in Jacobsville is that it's really a grassroots, resident-lead type of process and that we utilize everyone's gifts, be it their knowledge, their skills, or even just their passion for the neighborhood in wanting to improve it.

This is the Jacobsville Vision and whenever we came together as a large group and had our visioning workshop, this is what the neighborhood said that they want to be. They want to be a cool, hip, vibrant place. They want to have strong relationships within their neighborhood, including their own families. They want to have vibrant retail spaces, restaurants, and attractive public spaces.

Some of the early collective impact that we've had in Jacobsville, we do what we call Early Action Projects and that's to keep the community engaged in this process while we're waiting for the bigger projects to come to fruition so we've established an Early Action Grant process. We've already given over \$10,000 in small neighborhood improvement projects in Jacobsville over the past couple of years and we're getting ready to do a third round of \$5,000 and we'll have that information out probably in August to the community as to the recipients for those projects.

Some other things that we've done are the 2¢ campaign, and that's where initially we were asking people figuratively for their 2¢ about their neighborhoods so why not ask them literally for 2¢ to show that they are really buying into this process. Our goal was to collect \$304.00 and that was based off of the number of people that live there and work there. We actually raised \$550.00 just within 30 days.

Next I'm going to have Stephanie Tenbarge with ECHO Housing Corporation come up. She's part of the Housing Work Group and she's going to give some information about what they're doing in the neighborhood.

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** Thank you Jennifer and a thank you to all of you Council for hearing what we have going on in Jacobsville. It's pretty darn exciting to see the amount of collaboration and resident/stakeholder involvement that's come together to make all of this happen.

I'm here to report on the housing component, which we identified as one of the top priority goals of the quality of life plan and not just to address the housing but first we

had to collect the data to find out where we were. You know, assess the house...existing housing stock and find out what the need would be; whether we need new homeownership, rehabbing houses, rental units, and so forth, so you can see the goals listed in front of you.

The first one, to collect the data, has been done and if you go to the second page you'll find some very interesting statistics that came out of this. I think the perception...what'd I do? Oh, I didn't advance it; too much technology for me.

**President Adams:** You're doing great.

**Jennifer Mason:** Okay, there we go.

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** Oh, did I hit it? Okay, sorry.

Okay, contrary to what people believe, the percentage of absentee and out-of-city and out-of-state landlords is pretty small in Jacobsville. Of the 808 rental properties, 101 are actually owned by actual Jacobsville residents or businesses and 75% of all rental property is owned by people or businesses residing in Evansville so we do have a personal investment and a personal involvement in the neighborhood that kind of goes against I think what everyone perceives is that a lot of our landlords are absentee and don't care. So we can reach out and make a difference, I believe.

And then if you look up here in the pie charts, you'll see the vacant housing units versus the occupied. It's not great and obviously that's why the Housing Work Group is working on that. The home ownership is low as well, so that's another goal of ours is to increase...convert some rentals maybe to home ownership or to get increased home ownership maybe by building stock or, you know, trying to make some monies available to people to try and purchase their homes. But less than 1%, and I think this is an interesting statistic, are owned by the government, which means city or federal, or by NPO, it's non-profit. So it's not a high percentage of non-profit involvement compared to city-wide and resident-wide stakeholders.

So I'm going to talk a little bit, and this is not just about ECHO, but the first few slides, the Housing Work Group is a collaborative effort of much more than ECHO. Am I supposed to advancing these?

**Unidentified Speaker:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** That's why I pay her to big bucks to help me out here.

But at any rate, we have several projects in the pipeline. To give you a feel for this transformational impact that could be had in Jacobsville:

- 1) The Garfield Commons Project which is very much alive and well. As a matter of fact, we're going back in in November. It's a 9% tax credit deal. We are stronger than we were QAP (*Qualified Allocation Plan - Housing Tax Credit Program*) has changed. It was somewhat prejudicial against urban new construction; it was more for adaptive reuse and it's moved more our direction so we feel we have a really, really strong application. That will be about 50 units. The above slide is where it will be located. It's at the corner of Garfield and Virginia, which is right behind Fred's Bar.
- 2) The second page, you may or may not be aware of this, ECHO has an option on the Crawford Door building and this would be an adaptive reuse and new construction. This, the State has encouraged us to do. They are behind us 100%. Basically all we have to do is just kind of put our ducks in a row and they want us to do a 4% bond deal on this. So you can sort of see at the bottom, we really don't have a rendering but this is a very similar building. It's the Fisher, I believe, Fall Creek Candy Company in Indianapolis. We have some of the same architects working on this. Probably will be another 40 or 50 units.
- 3) The next is the most exciting of all. This is the old flea market building. We are working, hopefully, through some channels to get possession of this property and if so, think what could happen. The rendering shows you what we could with mixed-us commercial development. We have some interest from Bill Bussing. Some personal financing and working with us as well so between what you're looking at; it could be 20 million, 30 million dollars; 100 units of housing and some commercial development which could increase revenues for the TIF. So again, it could be...it could be transformational.

But we're not the only ones. Habitat has made a...

**President Adams:** That's cheek and jowl to the ballpark, isn't it? Yeah.

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** Well what he's calling it, he wants a Wrigleyville.

**President Adams:** Right.

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** So that's kind of what we...just a rendering. It's just a, you know, speculation and hope.



But again, there are many other providers that are working in the neighborhood. Habitat has gotten several properties from Deaconess Hospital and is currently building and I think they're probably going to have probably 10 homes in the Jacobsville area so again, they've made a real commitment to Garfield Commons area.

Community One has also targeted Jacobsville and particularly the Garfield area for their renovations. ECHO Housing is working with Community One to access to access federal home loan bank funds for a neighborhood assistance program and AMP funds to help homeowner rehabilitation. We've already done one house. They're also looking at purchasing houses that will work together to try and rehab for homeowners.

So again, when you look at everybody combined, you're talking a lot of million dollars-worth of investment in housing. So I think my work group is pretty excited about what can and will be in our Jacobsville that we foresee in the future. Thank you.

**President Adams:** Thank you.

*Applause*

**Jennifer Mason:** Next we have Heather Otilie. She's going to come up and talk about Infrastructure and Parks Work Group.

**Heather Otilie:** Hi. Like she said, my name is Heather Otilie. I am the Infrastructure and Parks Community Chair. I am a resident and a stakeholder in Jacobsville.

After the vision, our community came up with some goals and the goals were designed by residents and stakeholders to make Jacobsville infrastructures and parks safer and more comfortable. The goals also were set up to improve the area with the bullets in the slideshow that you can read on the slide. I don't mind just reading verbatim because...

Some of the accomplishments that our group has been working towards is we did a streetlight survey in the fall of 2014. We identified four streetlights that were not working, contacted Vectren and they fixed them right away. We also realized that there's many areas in the Jacobsville area that are very dark; they don't have lighting, so we brought that to Vectrens' attention as well. And there's a lot of areas that are covered with trees that need to be cut down.

We also identified the Garvin Park shelters; they needed better roofing, so the smaller one that is in the back, it has been fixed. The larger one has not been fixed yet.

We're also looking more streetlights, bus stops, sidewalks, bicycle racks, Pigeon Creek pedestrian bridge, and adding new goals. And also the North Main Complete Street.

**President Adams:** Thank you.

**Heather Otilie:** Thank you for your time.

**Jennifer Mason:** Next we'll have Darla Smith and she's going to talk about the Business Corridors Work Group.

**Darla Dailey Smith:** Can't do much without these glasses. I am Darla Dailey Smith and I own Dailey's Bakery. I'm a stakeholder but I also have a residence there I grew up in on 219 E. Florida Street; my sister still lives there. I grew up there and I remember. I have a very good memory of what that walking community once was. It was an excitement and a fun time for me growing up there. I lived there until I was a young woman and just moved a short distance away to the northside and then of course back again now.

And I decided since I was there, opened the bakery, that I would like to be part of things and I realized there was really something going on. There were some visions and some dreams and planning. There wasn't just...I'll point out in a moment what's up here, but there wasn't just talk. You know we can have hope and faith but without works we all know that just comes to a dead end. We know what that dead end street looks like.

So people were really working so I joined in and they asked me...thought that I did have the ability to be on the Business Corridor. Gee, they have a lot more faith in that area than I did when I started. But some of the things that we did, and that we hope for by 2017, are that we are hoping that the Northside Business Association will lead the facilitation for recruitment, retention, sustainability of businesses for the Jacobsville neighborhood to promote healthy business corridors, which is an extremely important thing for North Main Street. I call it "uptown". We have downtown and I call it uptown.

By 2017 we hope, all of those there, that we create a brand that will identify Jacobsville; that will celebrate the history of Jacobsville and the uniqueness of that neighborhood, which it really is. There is a lot to be told about that neighborhood. It's not showing as brightly as it will. I am a person with a glass of water that's half full, not half empty, and I'm a painter not a pointer; I've said it more than once. I can see things as they see them, and others paint the picture, as we said in these groups, as do some of this work and help finish the picture that I see.

We, second page, alright, we have a tool box of course that has a data collection in that tool box. The complete...for the complete tool box and I'll give you....there's four points

there but I'll give you an example of what might be in that tool box. For example, we collected information for possible business opportunities, availabilities, possibilities for people coming in and you know, we don't think little. We get excited about those pennies that came to five hundred and something. Believe me, we're a passionate neighborhood. We get excited about little things and we never despise small beginnings so...but we do plan on stepping up and we keep moving so we have momentum because we are a group of grassroots people working together so we are hoping to do this for this wonderful, cultural district. We have...I, as coming in as a new person a few years ago, it's going on four now; gee, I've realized that, and was informed that that has been opened up as the fifth cultural, or one the five cultural districts, and we want to help make it that. It's pretty exciting to us.

We want to partnership; we have partner-shipped with Reitz High School and some of their young students with Feel...the Feel of...it's called the Feel of History. Those young students are doing 20 videos for us; what we call walking videos.

Yes, we've really done some homework working on...when you say grassroots it really is. We've done some real neat things and found out some things from different people. We talk to people. That's what communities do when you get in these groups. And you talk and find out what can be done so we're working with some of the high school students do to these walking videos, which is going to be wonderful. It will promote the cultural district as it begins to unfold and people can really see and learn about the history of that district. Isn't that exciting?

**President Adams:** Yeah.

**Darla Dailey Smith:** And you know I always say that the Knotty Pine is gone but there is history in that spot before that building went down and I don't know if many of you read the book and the story but several, I think, a few of 'em are about that thick on the history of the spy who hid there and we should all know it because I love history. But anyway, we do have some history, believe me, in that neighborhood.

But we want to help promote that and these kids are doing this. They're very talented. It's going to be a picture-full book and that's going to be presented and the videos; it'll help. So as people go along they're going to be able to know what this was, what was there, what is there and what's going on. It'll also help with the schools.

We...the Northside Business, and of course I'm very excited about the Northside Business Association; it has been revitalized and that's an understatement. It has always been there, it's over 100 years old; one of the oldest organizations/associations there and I'm proud to be on that but it's so much excitement going on that it's revitalized this northside business. There's always at least 40 people there, 30, 40, 45 and there are

many more. At least, I would say, 90 businesses all told, not always coming but always interested, always saying, "What can I do to help?" Recently we want to be part of this neighborhood so we decided what can we do and we decided the best thing we could do for the future is do something for our youth so we did a BBQ. We got Dilegge's restaurant to help and he stayed up all night. We met him early in the morning and that was our part; give him the dirty job, but anyway, working with the BBQ ribs and that, the money all went to the youth of Jacobsville so it's not just about us and what we want to see. It's about the future of the young people there so the Northside Business Association, I'm passionate about, and they have become passionate, all of them wanting to do something as things are moving on, people have become a lot more excited about it; very interested in all of that neighborhood.

And North Main, our fourth point, North Main Gateway was established with the Jacobsville mural. You all saw the mural. Most people think that is the neatest thing. I've heard a couple remarks that, "Oh, it's not finished up there". That is the design of that by a very famous person who designed it for us but all of Jacobsville stepped in and brought material, they brought hats, they brought shirts, there is people up and down there in businesses that some of the fabric is something their mother sewed; a quilt or...I'll make a joke again, name dropping, Dan DiLegge's Hawaiian tee shirt...shirt is up there somewhere; painted it himself. So that was a lot of fun and togetherness when that mural was done. But it's a gateway; it's an opening and if you notice downtown is the gateway and the arch and we now have, of course, thank goodness to a gentleman who spotted it and has always got his eye out, and that arch is over the entrance to Garvin Park, which brings this city together.

You know, that's what we call a Complete Street and it's tying things together. I might not articulate just exactly the way I really want to and I am grassroots and I am a baker, I am a mother, I am a grandmother, but these are important things that community people and grassroots people talk about. It's exciting the things that's beginning to happen there.

The North Main Complete Street projects, we want the branding for this business in this pipeline. We want a branding for this business district; marketing campaign and neighborhood walking map, and these are all the things I just discussed. This is part of it and perhaps later on I'll be able to bring you a little bit more business corridor information but we are working at it from the one end of it by Lloyd Expressway all the way to Garvin Park, by walking if necessary, parking the car, just walking from one end to the other, seeing what the availability of buildings are, what kind of condition they're in. We don't want to try to encourage someone to come there and then this is all we have to offer and no information so we found out what can be taken care of, who's doing what to make it presentable as it comes. Thank you very much gentlemen, I appreciate you and ladies.

**President Adams:** Thank you ma'am.

**Jennifer Mason:** I'm going to fill in for Emily Baxter Parker who usually does our Employment Work Group but we do have an employment work group that's been working to find opportunities and reduce barriers for people in the Jacobsville neighborhood regarding employment. Some of the things that they have accomplished so far is hosting an employment and resource fair in the neighborhood at SWIRCA last year and it's something that they're excited to try to do again. Whenever they were first looking at some of the data about the neighborhood and employment needs, they identified childcare and transportation as two barriers that people living in the neighborhood have to overcome whenever it comes to employment so one of the things that they did is they partnered with WorkOne and the Dream Center to bring some education resources to the neighborhood and people can actually go to the Dream Center now once a week for GED training.

And then we also have...working to add new work group members as we make connections within the neighborhood and the community at large. They are bringing in new people such as Community Marriage Builders, who has programs that evolve around workforce development. And then also some new businesses that are coming into Jacobsville that I'll talk about a little bit later.

**Leanne Pease:** Hello, my name is Leanne Pease and I am a resident of Jacobsville for the last three years. I've been involved for the last four and I'm also the president of the Jacobsville Neighborhood Improvement Association and I'm here today to speak with you about the Youth & Education. I am currently the chair of the Youth & Education Work Group.

We have four goals as you can see on your pamphlet and also on the screen for those in the audience. You'll notice that most of these goals are really about building a relationship, the first one in which would be with organizing neighborhood churches, organization in schools, and creating a pipeline of support for the youth in the neighborhood.

Although it says youth, we also focus on the family as a whole so we also want to educate the adults as well so we want to make sure that if there's any services for the parents that they're...we have that support as well, and as many know, there's not parental but there's guardianship so it could be a grandparent, an aunt or an uncle that has guardianship of a child so we want to make sure they have resources as well.

You'll notice the next one is the Build the Community Among the Residents. By starting with the organizations we get that pipeline going and now we can approach the

residents and stakeholders and the schools in regards to the PTA and getting them to come together.

The next one would be the Promote the Six Visions that Jacobsville has and we are going to help with all the work groups, one way or another, through education. Once again, whether it's strictly on the youth and also for the family as a whole and one of our big goals that we have, and a lot of people may not recognize the connection, but the very last one is by 2019, we're looking to have free WIFI for Jacobsville and some people...the connection is the schools. The EVSC, and also other schools, heavily rely upon electronic communications; otherwise my son would probably get away with getting all Fs if it wasn't for going on line and checking his scores and stuff. So we want to make sure that the residents in the neighborhood have that access. We also want to make sure that the businesses have access as well so they can keep in contact and keep in touch. So that is...looks like the oddball goal but it's actually one of the most important ones to keep us all connected. And we would like to model it, actually, off of Richmond because they have WIFI free available for downtown through their I believe Civic Center but I don't know what they call it so we would like to model it after that to where we can have the access for everyone in Jacobsville.

And I believe that's it but as always, if you have any questions about anything with Youth & Education, or as the neighborhood as a whole, please contact me and I'd be happy to answer. Thank you.

**Jennifer Mason:** Next we have Melissa Tines and she's a resident and Safety & Cleanliness Work Group chair.

**Melissa Tines:** Hello, my name's Melissa Tines and like she said, I'm a resident. I chair the Safety & Cleanliness Work Group and I'm the treasurer for the neighborhood association and I was standing there looking at you guys and wondering if you were getting irritated that my baby was crying and then I thought you guys were all babies once and someone snuggled you and made you stop crying and the great thing is someone along the way touched you in a way to where you are where you are today and you have passion towards our city and that's what we want to do.

Our neighbors have cried out for a safer and cleaner city and so in our working group we putting in goals into play that are going to make the City look better, make the City...make our neighborhood more comfortable, make us feel at home, that way we have pride and we want to continue to build up our area.

We've used...how do you advance it? There you go. Okay, we have revitalized the neighborhood association; it's been around for a long time but the members were getting older and there was not as much new blood coming in to help breathe life into

it so we've revitalized that. We have officers and we have the neighborhood association working together to address problems and situations in the neighborhood. We've also created a social media page that is bringing neighbors together to not only talk about grievances or ask questions, but its distributing civics education that a lot of people didn't get when they were growing up as a child. They weren't taught how to be a good neighbor and now they're reaching out for that education and they're wanting to know how they can be better so we're supplying information, passing on things that we see so these people can try to do a better job and make our area better.

We also have off-duty police officers patrolling to make the area police presence more known and we are working to get neighborhood input on new litter signage and neighborhood watch signage and by neighborhood watch, we don't mean a little group of people watching people's windows and looking for intruders. We're implementing a system to where the neighbors all feel empowered to watch each other, to where we communicate more readily and easily to an extent where we...if we see something wrong we feel like it is our job and we're doing a service by calling it and reporting it and helping our neighbors out.

So all these things we're doing to try to make the neighborhood feel better, more comfortable; to take our streets back from the people that are making it uncomfortable for us and make it our neighborhood again.

So those are the things that we're trying to do in Safety & Cleanliness. Thank you.

**President Adams:** Thank you.

*Applause*

**Jennifer Mason:** And that kind of brings us to the Jacobsville Crime-Free Alliance. ECHO Housing, with the Jacobsville Join In Initiative, received a \$600,000 grant at the end of 2013 from the Bureau of Justice to address crime in the Jacobsville neighborhood. We were tasked with 15 months of research and planning. In that project we really studied the neighborhood, brought together neighborhood partners and community resources, including our local law enforcement to address the crime needs of Jacobsville. Through that, we identified 22 hot spots in the neighborhood where crime is occurring the most, and where ever I say hot spot, if you go back to that map, those are the hot spots and those are census-block areas where crime is occurring the most in Jacobsville.

Right now the top three crimes in the neighborhood include theft, battery, and narcotics.

So with that, we have 21 months to implement our Jacobsville Crime Free Alliance. We received approval on the project earlier this year and we kicked it off in May. Those are pictures of some of the things that we have done so far. We had Jacobsville Join In Day and that was a neighborhood service day to show collective impact in the neighborhood. We had over 100 participants come in and do some type of project from litter clean-ups to pulling weeds to just celebrating each other at our parks, to raising funds for different organizations, like the Humane Society, that are within the neighborhood and our estimated number of people that we reach that day was over 700 so that was quite an accomplishment for the first time out.

We also have started the Citizens Academy in Jacobsville with nearly 50 people that registered for that program and we are hitting the home stretch with just a couple weeks left in our 10-week lessons with them.

We are working on crime-free multi-housing in Jacobsville. We talked a little bit about housing earlier and the different partners and people coming into the neighborhood to improve. One of the things that impressed me was a property management group that heard about all of the movement in Jacobsville and has come in and started purchasing rental properties to clean up and move some of the blighted areas out and to remove some of the nuisance neighbors that have been there for years as mainstays in the neighborhood and they've invested quite a lot; over 20 properties just by that one investment company.

We also have leveraged, with the receipt of the \$600,000, another quarter of a million in in-kind services and programming through the Byrne and we are implementing 24 programs and projects in Jacobsville over the next 21 months.

Some things that whenever we talk about added investment and new investment in Jacobsville, a lot of things are happening that spurred from the movement but we don't take ownership or credit for necessarily. One of those investments is Jacobsville Park with the Eagle Scout, Dane Hancock, and what he achieved there and those...the first photo is a before photo of the park, the middle is what he accomplished with his new playground equipment and now I know that there's new picnic tables and trash receptacles as well.

And then ECHO's piece with the adjacent lots in their (*Inaudible*) that will be coming in soon.

Some other new investment...because of the movement for the crime-free stance in Jacobsville, we had an anonymous donor come forward this spring fairly quickly and said, "Hey, we have a commercial property. Would you guys want to use that for maybe a community meeting space?" Absolutely, so now we are the owners of the 118 and



120 Florida commercial building that's sits on the corner of Heidelberg, which is near by one of the hottest hot spots on the neighborhood where crime is occurring the most so it's a good opportunity for us to come in and to fix up a property and then to have a presence with the neighborhood and everyone that's trying to make a difference in the neighborhood.

Another investment that we've noticed in Jacobsville is the property. The old #10 firehouse on E. Columbia Street and that's a private investor and what he's done...the photo on the left is the before and the photo on the right is the after.

We have a second old firehouse on Baker Avenue. Architectural Renovators have come in and have done an outstanding job even though it's not fully complete yet and that's a photograph that I took just last week of the progress that they've made at that property.

Two properties located on North Main Street, the Lucky Lady and the Lover's Playground have done façade improvements. And then another property on North Main, it's been several things throughout the year is now...or throughout the years, it's now Gayla Cakes and they've done façade improvements to that as well.

Something that we've also noticed since we've started this movement of Jacobsville Join In, since 2013 we've had 10 new businesses that have moved into Jacobsville and that's a list of those businesses. One of the newest ones is MS Companies, who is actually employment services for Toyota Boshoku.

And one last thing before we go, I'm going to have Stephanie Tenbarge with ECHO come up and just briefly talk about the Promise Zone designation for Jacobsville.

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** Well first of all, I think you have to be impressed at the level of resident and stakeholder involvement that's going on in Jacobsville. I'm sure people really don't have any idea what's actually happening behind the scenes but the last page in your packet is how we're leveraging what we've done and I think you'll see that it's interesting. First of all, let me say thank you to the Council of 2011 for appropriating the \$100,000 which we've leveraged to almost two million dollars for Jacobsville, so money well spent; a really good investment.

We've also, as Jennifer said, we leveraged that money for the Byrne Grant, which was then leveraged for another \$250,000. We leveraged what we're doing in Jacobsville. We got the only AHP (*Affordable Housing Program*) award in the City of Evansville for \$500,000 for the renovation Lucas Place, which is another additional million dollars that I didn't speak of before. We're rehabbing an existing structure. What this means is what's happening in Jacobsville means big dollars, potentially, for not just our neighborhood but for the City. The Kresge Foundation has a fund called...or a grant

called Strong, Healthy Places and their goal is to expand creative place-making activities and we are ripe to apply for this grant, and will do so, but the biggest apple, if you want on the tree, is the Promise Zone designation. If you're not familiar with the Promise Zone, it is something that President Obama created which is to designate a number of high-poverty, urban communities where the federal government will partner with and invest in the communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime. Now why does that work for us? Well, we've got two of the four things that are needed for the Promise Zone: A Byrne Grant and a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, so that kind of puts us to the head of the line or helps us.

Indianapolis just recently got one in the last round of funding. They were gracious enough to share their application with us so we have a pretty good idea of what works. We've put together a team. There has to be a lead applicant, which will be ECHO Housing. You have to demonstrate the ability of the ECHO, or the lead agency, to do the goals and receive funding and we have a long track record with government funding so that won't be a problem. You have to partner with the City; they are partnering with us and also the Evansville School Corporation so we are putting together a Promise Team, if you will, to go for this Promise application in the fall round. Now what does that mean? Well it means more than just Jacobsville because you have to encompass... you literally map a zone and it has to be at least 10,000 residents but it can be up to 200,000. So what it means for Evansville...it could be huge...they are contiguous, you have to map it where everything is touching, and the poverty level has to be greater than 33%. So what happens is you map this area, they send you back the demographics and that's what you decide you want to go for in your grant. So this could be huge because to be a designated Promise Zone is a ten-year designation, which puts you at the forefront for 12 federal agencies, which is what you see at the top there. The Department of Transportation being only one; Department of Education, HUD, Americorps; it could just be huge.

So if you look at the bottom and you think about where we've come and where we're going and what we could leverage, again, I have to come back to the word transformational, not just for Jacobsville, but we could become a model city. And are we a model city? Absolutely. The State is looking at us, the State of Michigan in coming in to look at what we're doing and become a part of it. We have outside developers that see what's happening in Jacobsville and want to be a part. Not just for Jacobsville but they're looking at other big projects; new market tax credits for the City.

It's just...it's almost overwhelming to me how this bit of leverage that we started out with could literally transform this neighborhood and this city.

So thank you for your time and consideration and I hope you appreciate everything that these folks have been working on in the past couple years. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Jennifer Mason:** And we are open to questions if anyone has any.

**President Adams:** Any questions from Council?

**Councilman Weaver:** Keep up the good work.

**Jennifer Mason:** Thank you.

**President Adams:** Any other comments? Any other comments from the crowd. Wow. Thank you.

**City Council Attorney Danks:** You've got one.

**President Adams:** Hm?

**City Council Attorney Danks:** You have one.

**President Adams:** Ah, great, my friend Don Neidig. You're going to give us the historical perspective.

**Don Neidig:** I don't want to get into that. I'm Don Neidig, 707 North Main Street for 65 years and you're down...this isn't just about Jacobsville guys. This is...downtown is only as strong as the neighborhoods around it, okay? You got Haynie's Corner area going up. You got West Franklin Street going up. Now let's put Jacobsville in the right perspective. That's all I've got to say. I don't want to get into the history but I got a lot of it. I was here in '63 at the old courthouse when said put up the Civic Center here and they had to have security then for all the people because many are too young to remember you could drive from Riverside Drive...Garvin Park...and go around and come right back. Those were good times. Thank you.

**President Adams:** Thank you sir.

**Don Neidig:** Just keep it favorable.

**President Adams:** Any other comments on this subject? Again, thank you so much for coming and thank you for your continued, wonderful efforts.

**Unidentified Speaker:** *(Off Mic)* Thank you for having us.

**ECHO Housing Executive Director Tenbarge:** Thank you, thank you so much.

**President Adams:** Okay, is Assistant Chief Pugh here today to talk about the fireworks? Perhaps Officer Afifi would...oh there we go. Great. Sorry Chief, I didn't see you back there.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** It's a little earlier than I thought I was going to go.

**President Adams:** What we're looking for is advice from you about how we can approach this pro...well the...well, hopefully, you see it as a problem but what suggestions you have that we could help and make this problem be more controllable.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** I watched the Council Meeting two weeks ago and from the department's perspective, we don't disagree with anything that was said. I mean we see it as a problem also. The problem we see, big picture-wise is the State's created this incredible industry with massive stores selling everything you can imagine to launch and then they put these certain little restrictions. I mean we compare it almost to the texting law. It's almost unenforceable what they want done or what could be done because of how much they are allowed to sell and how much is out there.

Part of the problem, especially on the Fourth of July, is if it's not the busiest night of the year that the Police Department has, it's right there with it and a fireworks run...I checked with dispatch today to get some numbers; a fireworks run is a Priority IV run. It's the lowest priority run that the Police Department has so I think that's part of the reason that people think we're not actually responding to 'em. A lot of times when it's just one run after one run, and if you listen to second and third shift most nights during the hours that the fireworks are to be lit, I mean they're running from one run to one run and a lot of times what you'll hear the officer say is, "Put that as an extra patrol; I'll get by there when I can", and that's why a lot of times I think the residents think we're not paying attention to the actual problem. We're getting there after it's over because it's not as high a priority in the dispatch code.

So as far as things we think we can do, I mean we think making the City ordinance more restrictive would help but I mean you still got the problem. There's so much of it out there and people are still going to be shooting it so to solve the problem, I think, until they somehow limit because 30 years ago, 40 years ago when I was a kid, you're dad had to make a run to Tennessee just to have Black Cat fireworks or firecrackers.

**President Adams:** Right.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** And if you had a gross of bottle rockets you were like the king. Now I mean that stuff's pretty tame to what's being able...the State allows to shoot off so any questions you have, I mean I'll try to answer 'em best I can.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** How many ordinance tickets were actually written?

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** That I'll have to get you.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** I mean just anecdotally. I'm sure it's a very, very low number.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** I bet you it's very few. We end up probably taking more of the fireworks and just disposing of them to solve the problem then the ordinance ticket being written.

**City Council Attorney Danks:** It seems that's reactionary and I think what you're saying and I think it's really what Doc was saying last week is we need to change at the State level you know.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** I think the only way you...

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Enhancing an ordinance that we're not enforcing really doesn't solve the problem. We need to...

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** I agree 100%. Unless you get it...somehow the State gets it under control and limits what's able to be sold, there's nothing the ordinance or the State law is really going to do because it's not unique to Evansville. I mean this isn't an Evansville problem. I guarantee you if you're going to Gary, Fort Wayne, or even Mt. Vernon or places like that, Princeton, they've got a huge fireworks problem too that...that...and I understand why the citizens are upset and concerned. I mean I heard the guy talking about his little dog two weeks. I've got a 14-year old Jack Russell and I think he's going to have a heart attack every Fourth of July. He just, you know, just trying to figure out somewhere to go and it's not near as bad where I live as some the neighbor, you know, the neighborhoods in the city where it's, you know, the houses are sitting right on top of each other too.

**President Adams:** Yes, Dan.

**Councilman McGinn:** Chief, you know there are some people that...they don't have calendars or don't know how to use them. You know they...they totally ignore...you know, if they're within a week of the starting date they figure they're close enough.

Now in instances like that, would it help if the citizens who are offended, upset by all of this, if they would actually provide an address of the illegal fireworks to the police, to the dispatch I mean?

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** If we had an exact address...you know the problem I notice at my house is you just don't know where they're coming from.

**Councilman McGinn:** Yeah.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Unless they're actually being shot off right next to you or you can see where they're...

**Councilman McGinn:** Yeah.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:**...they're being shot from. As much information as they're able to give to the dispatcher is always going to help the officer when he's trying to...

**Councilman McGinn:** Okay.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:**...to, you know, locate where it's from. One of the things we did is the Fourth of July, and actually it was an email that you were involved in with one of the residents in your ward, was we did talk to the patrol lieutenants and then they addressed the roll calls about, you know, a fireworks run is a low priority run compared to everything else but it is a concern to those that, you know, are being affected by it. Their animals are getting upset, they can't sleep, the stuff's landing in their pools, on their roofs, in their yards and they're having to clean all that up so make sure we make an effort to get out there and do what we can to try to, you know, to try to alleviate the problem for them.

**Councilman McGinn:** Well a lady that I've spoken with several times each firework time, she does speak very highly of the Police Department. She has...she has driven and found an address and called in the exact address, and has, on numerous occasions, had what she says is a very successful response so you know, it's...you guys have done some good stuff, you know, even though it's overwhelming; I understand that.

But I'll keep advising people if they do call that, you know, if they can drive, if they can the address then you at least have a fighting chance (*Inaudible*).

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** They we've got somewhere we could at least knock on the door and...

**Councilman McGinn:** Yeah.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** You know if you just get 600 block of East whatever it's hard to...

**Councilman McGinn:** Yeah.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** You know it's hard to figure out exactly where it's coming from then.

**Councilman McGinn:** Okay.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Especially if it's coming from the backyard or something like that.

**Councilman McGinn:** Yeah. Yeah, I mean I think the people...the people who are upset are going to have to do a little legwork in order to help you guys out so I'll keep advising them of that and see if we can't help you. Thanks.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I have a couple of questions. So does it hurt...I mean I understand providing as much information as possible for people that are willing but right now when they can go to 11:30, I mean do you see an issue with reducing...the State would allow us to reduce that to roughly 10:30 at night. Is that...I mean I understand the low priority of the run but it can't hurt to list it to move it to 10:30, right?

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Personally I wish it was...I mean this from a personal stand; I wish it was earlier that they would limit it on but I think, and especially the Fourth, and this year the Fourth is...the Fourth was a Saturday night, so when the Fourth falls on a Friday or Saturday it gets even worse because people usually don't have to work the next day so they really get the, you know, *(Inaudible)*.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Well that one the State requires that we allow, I believe, til midnight.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Uh-hm.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** But the other nights, I mean we're stuck with those ten days but the State law says two hours after sundown, which is roughly like 10:15 so I mean I think people would feel better...

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Yes.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:**...about an earlier end-time even though obviously it's a low priority. Would you agree with that?

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** I think so. And on the nights, I mean, the summer nights are always busy, especially second shift, which is going to run roughly from 2:00 to 11:00, you know, and then the shift changes are happening in those areas too but that's by far the busy shift run volume-wise and that's kind of why the fireworks runs dropped down so low and some people think well, they're not even showing up on 'em just because the other higher priorities: accidents, fights...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Oh yeah, I mean we can...

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Things like that.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:**...see from your annual report that I mean most of the crime is like 3:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. so I get that, second and third shift.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Yeah, you can see a spike right there.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, the second question is from your experience when you talk to people related to the fireworks, is...would more information help? I mean Councilwoman Mosby...I think we had a discussion last time about potentially requiring vendors within the city limits to post information about the dates and times. You know when you do have officers hit a door, do people seem to have any concept of the ordinance? I know someone here I guess visited some fireworks stores and there wasn't anything really posted about the rules. I mean would it help do you think to make sure those were posted and stores..

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** You know I think...I believe it was the ordinance. I reread the State law and the ordinance today but one of 'em does say, and I believe it's the ordinance says that the rules are supposed to be posted or the times and things. I mean I think the problem with that is I could take this sheet and post 'em on and nobody's going to see it and it may be where, and I'm just talking here, the vendor either hands out, you know, with the sale part of the thing, some type of pamphlet or something has to go or it has to be...figure up how prominently we want it displayed inside the...where the fireworks are being sold because I would venture to guess most of the fireworks vendors post it but it's like a lot of places, it's not...it's not really...it's not going to be real visible and it may be hard to see. Maybe if there is an ordinance change that it's designated exactly where it has to be posted in the business and I don't see as many...it seemed like 10 years ago there was a fireworks stand with a, you know, basically a cafeteria table and a tent on every corner. I don't see as many of those. You see more of the superstores. But, you know, where it would be consistent across the board you know but you know some of the people will listen to it. It's like any law or rules...



**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Yeah.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** The majority will pay attention but some of 'em are just going to, "Hey, it's the Fourth of July and I'm shooting 'em until I don't have any more left".

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Oh sure. And then the last question, we would have some discretion to knock out Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day. We currently allow those dates under our ordinance. We don't have to though. Do you have any feelings about knocking out those three weekends?

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Honestly, I don't see where it would hurt. I would like to get with dispatch and just see what kind of run numbers we have for those particular days and see...you know, offhand I wouldn't know how many runs we're even making or how big a problem it is on those days. Also, what the availability is for people buying on those days too but if you 're interested I can have dispatch run those numbers...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Sure.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:**...and get 'em to you.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Yeah, I mean you don't have the same sales I think with Veteran's Day and Labor Day. It may be sort of what you've got left over, you know, on those dates, but I also don't necessarily associate fireworks with sort of memorializing you know veterans and those kind of things. We have veteran, you know, it's kind of a mixed bag. We have a lot veterans complain about fireworks and not liking those noises and, you know, some probably are okay with it but...

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Yeah, I mean I would think...I don't think you would get much opposition to that really but I'll get those numbers for you and get 'em emailed to you.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, thank you.

**President Adams:** Any other comments from City Council? Do you have any other insights or any...would anyone else like to...hah! Young lady, would you like join us and make a comment?

Thank you Chief.

**EPD Assistant Chief Pugh:** Thank you.

**Berniece Tirmenstein:** Berniece Tirmenstein, 1636 E. Blackford Avenue. I know that it's been addressed tonight about all the annoyance that it causes dogs and the people. I had a fellow who was doing some work for me and while he was working he got a call from his daughter saying that some hoodlums had launched a bottle rocket on her roof and it caught on fire and she had \$400.00 damage. And we also know...I heard that at St. Mary's Emergency Room they treated five injuries due to firecrackers.

**President Adams:** Hm. Thank you. Any other comments?

**Randy Jones:** Again, I know I'm a minority on this group here but there is laws in effect. There's a certain time; after that time, write 'em up. Once 11:30 comes, somebody's shooting at 11:30, they shouldn't be doing it; it's against the law. So if you want 'em posted on the stores like we do, I mean personally I'm not going to say what store it is but the store that I help with, it's posted when you walk in the door, it's posted on the 500 grams, it's posted in the back. It shows the rules. We tell people the rules.

And I think a good ordinance, and like I said, I'm kind of an anti-drinking person because I don't drink. I think every bar ought to have the rules that you are not allowed to drink and drive when you're there and the rules...I think that should be a good ordinance there too.

And you know, why we're at it, when you have your bierstube downtown, I think everything ought to be posted there. You can't leave her unless...when you been drinking without a drug test or drunk test or something. Maybe we should really enforce all these rules that the City wants to enforce on everything.

So you know...but I mean fireworks...State of Indiana last year gave the state fire marshals and extra 2.9 million dollars, almost 3.5 million this year will be collected extra. We're not talking about the sales tax; that's up in the millions also. But the state fire marshal for safety and their groups, and our locals get it too, was 2.9 million last year. That was extra 5% on fireworks. People don't realize that there is an extra fireworks (*Fireworks Tax*).

Some people do not feel that Veteran's Day is important but I will shoot fireworks every year for the ones that I lost and I will shoot red, white, and blue shells. I shot a fire... Veteran's Day, nobody knew about it; we didn't make it public. There was probably 100 people at the church. It's in the county because I didn't want to do it in the city but I shoot a red, white, and blue every year, show a fireworks show for veteran's. Some veterans have a problem but like I said, I have a problem with the planes flying over too but I wouldn't take that away from Evansville for nothing in the world.

So when you make the regulations and do all this thing, I'm going to ask for a lot more regulations to be done on a lot of other things too because I happen to like fireworks. In case you guys want to know, there was approximately 3,900 people visited the fireworks store; the one fireworks store that I work for. That's 3,900 votes you got to think about too. Thank you.

**President Adams:** Well certainly a colored opinion. Would you like to make a comment?

**Councilwoman Mosby:** I just wanted to make a comment to Assistant Chief Pugh. I just want to commend you and your team for all that they've been doing. There's been a lot of things going on in Evansville the last couple of weeks but especially last Thursday. Your team defused that. It could have really been terrible. So I just want to thank you and your team for all that you're doing and keep up the great work.

*Applause*

**President Adams:** Let me ask, and I apologize for not warning you ahead of time, let me ask this body whether it is your will that I put together, once again, another resolution asking for Home Rule and if we don't get Home Rule, specifying exactly what we want the State legislature to do, send a rough draft to each one of you, hammer out things that you think I've missed or things that you think you want there, and see if we can't, once again, like we did last year, send a resolution to the legislature and send a copy to the, what was it, the top 20 largest cities and towns through the whole state because like it or not, whether you like regulations or not on fireworks, the demand for the public is there from my point of view.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Yeah, I mean I don't know what the feeling is about other municipalities around the state but maybe work it the other way around and get with them and build the coalition and then put pressure on the State rather than, you know, Evansville's doing it and then Fort Wayne's doing it. Make it a group of...

**President Adams:** Well we did send a copy to the Association of Cities & Towns last year.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** But bring it together first...

**President Adams:** Yeah.

**Councilman O'Daniel:**...and then present it. Maybe it can work that way.

**President Adams:** Yeah, we can do that. The question is...let me put it another way. Is there anybody that does not want me to do this? Okay? Yes, no, got it? Super. Okay.

Ms. Schuler, will you join us.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** *(Off Mic)* Yes.

**President Adams:** Bob, you want to make your comments with her or after her or...

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** *(Off Mic)* I'll follow her.

**President Adams:** Great. She's a great act to follow.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Good evening. I'm Sarah Schuler with VPS Architecture, 528 Main Street.

I'm very sorry I wasn't here two weeks ago; I was out of town and I believe there's some questions that you may have concerning the development of the hotel project and I'm going to do my best to answer your concerns or questions.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** I guess my first question is do you know what the initial bid was for the site development to prepare the...because that's on us...to prepare the site to build the hotel?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I do not know the dollar amount for the site preparations. At this point, from when the project is getting started, I'm not aware that there's been any costs out of this particular project. I think that came previously.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Do we anticipate any costs for the site development?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yes, there will be costs for the development of the site.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Was that bid in the initial round that came in too high?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay, I'm struggling just a little bit with the question only because when it comes to site development there are things that are directly related to the building that will have to be done so that the site can support...support the building. Is there something very specific that you want me to address?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Well I think that's the problem is nobody knows what that really means. The plan calls for the City to prepare a site that is ready to be built on, okay? And so if that means removing old pilings, or whatever it may be, then that's on us.

Now I don't know if they can build around what we existing there or not but certainly there was a cost associated with preparing the site...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay.

**Councilman O'Daniel:**...to build upon and that's on us, that's not on HCW. That's not on...on anything else. It's on the City to prepare that for them. What is the cost of that going to be or what was that bid previously.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay, I don't know that standing right here. I will have to look it up but you are correct. There is, whenever I look through the documents, there are provisions for amendments to the soil. We do know that there's foundations from previous structures there so to get into that, there is a number there. Unfortunately, I don't know that number standing here today.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Okay. And then the other thing, the other major infrastructure project, was the moving of the sewer to the south...was it southwest side of the property. I think last week it was indicated, maybe four million. I've now heard seven. Is that the accurate number now?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

**Councilman O'Daniel:** And that may run across two different properties but...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I think that project...

**Councilman O'Daniel:**...the total project I think was, recently at least, bid on. I'm not sure if accepted or not.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Do you want to address that?

**Deputy Director of W&S Utility Labitzke:** *(Off Mic)* Sure.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay.

**Deputy Director of W&S Utility Labitzke:** Mike Labitzke. I'm the deputy director for the Water & Sewer Utility. That project was bid for seven million dollars but as I stated in the last meeting, I do want to stress that's part of the Integrated Overflow Control Plan. I have some supporting documents if you would care to see them to reference the plan. We are very much into an adaptive management mode so when there's opportunity to execute parts of the long term plan we are acting upon that and this, to us, is an opportunity to meet another need for a long term plan, which is to redirect

some sewer, combine them into one location along Cherry Street, which was part of the plan that was submitted over two years ago, and to create a storage location there. So this location is part of that plan that was expected to be done in the year 2034 through 2036. It just dove...

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So the thing is...

**Deputy Director of W&S Utility Labitzke:** We have an opportunity now.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** It's moved up considerably.

**Deputy Director of W&S Utility Labitzke:** It's adaptive...it's adaptive management strategy to, long term, save the City some...some capital money, yes.

*Speaking Simultaneously*

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Inaudible)*

Has yet to be approved though, correct? I mean as far as...

**Deputy Director of W&S Utility Labitzke:** We are still in negotiations, yes.

**Councilman Friend:** Let me ask you something. There was a question came up. I got the opportunity to go through the plans. Do you believe two elevators for 240 in a convention hotel would be adequate enough to serve the public? There was one service elevator and two for 240 rooms. Mostly I been in some of these convention hotels that's *(Inaudible)* for that. You're going to have a lot of activity going on there and I do realize it's a five-story structure so that would make it a little quicker getting up and down but I'm just asking your opinion as a professional. Do you think that's adequate enough?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Do I think it's enough? I can only tell you that when it comes to a building, the elevators...there's codes that let us know how many people can travel in these and when you're trying to balance different project needs along with budget, because of the cost of an elevator, which is typically priced per stop, you have to be very conscience of how many you do put in and I sure that it was a balance with the design needs and budget that they came to the decision of two.

**Councilman Friend:** Also, I noticed with the facilities?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Uh-hm.

**Councilman Friend:** Facilities from the restaurant area to where you have to go to facilities it was quite a journey. Normally when I've been in these convention hotels,

usually the facilities are close by, usually to your...to your restaurants and when you go down, look at that, you've got four stalls, this is the men's by the way, four urinals, two stalls and you could have 350 people right around the corner in the...in the convention area. And then the lady's only have eight stalls. It seems to be not adequate enough for the number of people who might be there. Do you feel that that's adequate?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Again, I think that whenever they sized these, they were looking at the loading from the ballroom that you're referring to, or the convention area, as well as the restaurant and there are calculations that are done and I have to...I have to say, it's adequate to handle a normal loading there and I mean we just have to trust the calculations.

**Councilman Friend:** Oh, I understand. That...one other thing too. In the original design, did you have UV glass involved in that in the specifications?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** The glass...

**Councilman Friend:** For energy saving purposes.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yeah, and the glass specification has not changed since the original. It...

**Councilman Friend:** So we still going to have UV?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yeah, it's actually a low-e glass with the coating on it and it is...I actually looked at both sections at one time and from the original bid to what is out on the streets now and it's the exact same specification, all the way down to the color coating that's going on it.

**Councilman Friend:** Okay. Finally, it does look like we do indeed have what you call the HVAC systems will be indeed in the rooms...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** *(Inaudible)*

**Councilman Friend:**...because I've stayed on one of these before. Now don't get me wrong, it was a nice place that I stayed but it does have its share of noise. I think I may have it recorded to show it. It does put a lot of noise out. Would you agree with that?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** There is noise associated with it and it's probably the cycling of the noise that disturbs you more than a constant noise.

**Councilman Friend:** Mine was pretty constant. I stayed at a Sheraton. I mean it's a good hotel; don't get me wrong. I'm not taking anything back from that but they're indeed, will be in the rooms. Okay, thanks.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yes, they will be.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Can you tell me what other areas have been value-engineered?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Since, and you're saying, since the original design?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)* the cost.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay, I will have to...I'm taking this directly from memory.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* Obviously ten to five stories is one thing. We know that.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Ten to five stories, exactly.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* The central air to PTAC is another. What else?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Exactly. There were some amenities on the roof that were taken back down: a roof-top bar and entertainment areas, the pool has been...and it's still within the acceptable standards of Hilton, but going from indoor to outdoor. This is for HVAC reasons as well so it impacts several systems. The number of rooms has been slightly reduced but still meets the study requirements for the goals that have been set forward. The materials of the shell of the building have also been value engineered.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* In what way?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Going from a curtain wall system to more store front systems where we do have window openings and then also punched openings, meaning that there are windows set within a wall rather than just being an engineered window wall. But the interior of the rooms remains the same as what was originally designed from the customer experience. With the exception that it's not full glass from wall to wall; there're windows in there as opposed to being full glass but there's still a considerable amount of window area within each room.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic)* What about the lighting?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I cannot totally speak that. There probably has been so value engineering done to it but I cannot speak to how much.



**Councilman O'Daniel:** Originally, was this supposed to be like a silver LEED designation and will this have any designation of sort of green engineering...or green...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** For the LEED certification, no, I'm not aware of that but I don't know that originally they had met the silver as well.

**President Adams:** Are there any other...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Did you have any more questions?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay.

**President Adams:** Are there other questions?

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I have one.

**President Adams:** Please.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Thank you for coming. I really appreciate it.

Now you were hired by the ERC in August of last year?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yes.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, and so your service contract is \$84,000. Is that capped?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I honestly can't speak to exactly what it is for. Whenever I started this, the idea was is that I would go out on the job site and compare what was being built with the contract documents.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** So the idea was is that we tried to quantify it by the number of visits and by some hours so that we could go through the duration to oversee, to give some reassurance to the City, to you actually as well, that what was being built matched the documents. Since then it has evolved a little bit so whenever I say I don't believe that it was capped at a number, it's based on the hours that we used to review the documents.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, maybe that you guys had an initial...you got initial approval perhaps for \$84,000 and, obviously, if your services are still required when they hit that cap, the ERC would be free to approve additional dollars. And that's just for you labor. You get reimbursed for whatever's being mailed. I see a lot of mailing in the invoices. Is that your...is that correspondence with Hunt or with HCW or other vendors?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yes, and you're probably also seeing some printing costs for documents.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Whenever there are costs to actually print out the documents so that we can review them other than just in an electronic format that is a reimbursable cost.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, and if somehow the hotel were not built then you wouldn't be paid 84...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** That's correct.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, and now do you sit on the Evansville Brownfield Corporation Board?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I do, yes.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, did you abstain on the vote related to the piece of property? I don't get the minutes.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I did.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** I did abstain. If there's anything can even remotely be seen as a conflict of interest I do remove myself from any vote and that's with any project that I involved with.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Yeah, I...we don't get...I don't get the minutes.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay. I did.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** So I just knew that you...that the Brownfields just recently purchased that last...

**VPS Architect Schuler:**...Right.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:**...strip of land that was required for the parking garage from the Housing Authority for, I think, \$55,000, and I don't...that's all I would know besides that...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** But yes, you are correct. I did abstain from that vote.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay and I'm going to ask you a question that perhaps Nick...I was interested in waivers and Nick sent me an email: No waivers have been requested by HCW in connection with the DoubleTree brand standards. The only waiver that they currently anticipate is the second service elevator and I think John has covered that; you're just at one. So are we back to actually having a 24/7 doorman.

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** I don't know if that's a brand standard.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yeah, I'm not sure exactly what the brand standards are. I know that from...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** That was just a prior waiver that you...they had requested.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Right and it may still come up. I can't speak to that with absolute certainty but the way that this works is when they apply for the brand waiver, as they go through the review process, you know, there may be more that Hilton may have to ask them to review and to apply for.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay and a...

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Did you want to address that?

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Yeah, the other thing I would add is when I received your email I picked up the phone and called HCW and asked them where that stood and it's a fairly lengthy process where I believe the designer, as well as Hilton, goes through page by page and through all the details and at that point nothing had come up but they anticipated it would be that second service elevator. As soon as something else comes up I'll keep you advised.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay and so the drawings I think I guess have been done for a few weeks and so does that trigger their ability to actually initiate their franchise application now that the draw...obviously Hilton wants to see the drawings. They prob...I mean I wouldn't know what I was looking at but they would so does that mean that they've paid the fee and have applied?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Yes, to the best of my knowledge that is all in the review process but they did need the final bid documents to be able to *(Inaudible)*...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, and that part's not done yet, the final bid documents? Those are anticipated maybe next month?

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Okay, the final bid documents are complete. That means that this has been turned over to Hunt Construction as, you know, they are pricing the job...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay.

**VPS Architect Schuler:**...and going through that final...final exercise. That is coming next month with the final pricing.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** That means that they are pricing all of the different portions, packages; they break it out into sub-packages and are working on getting that priced right now so that they can finalize their agreements sometime next month with HCW.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, the development agreement, and I know this is a fluid deadline, but the anticipated closing for HCW on the real estate I think is the end of August.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** Is it September?

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Specifically the document calls for a closing by September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, but I know that can be adjusted. Do you anticipate that'll end up being adjusted? I...because I think the closing con...like Old National's money is contingent on them; the pricing coming in, getting the franchise and closing on the real estate.

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Sure, yeah I mean ONB obviously doesn't want...isn't going to put its money into...

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Right.

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:**...into a project until they know it's there so there are a number of moving pieces and as with most closings of a fairly complicated matter, each aspect is generally contingent on the other so we don't have a specific date yet but it'll be within the next five weeks.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** So, but it'll sounds like the only thing at this point that hasn't fallen into place....I mean I understand that that final pricing will come back next month but we've...we've all talked about the fact that Hunt's been involved now for a very long time and is apparently willing to sign a guarantee to provide that coverage for us where we have overrun responsibility in the development agreement so the franchise approval, sort of that potential...I mean if we feel pretty good about the pricing coming in then it's really just the franchise approval.

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Yeah, I mean I'm not an expert in hotel franchising but I think that's...that anticipated to be approved early part of August.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay, so maybe in the next few weeks we will have really a clear indication of whether it's good to go and I think that's...I mean that's important; it's impressive. I understand as the amount of work that's been done and the amount of crap that you've taken along the way; I mean I get it, you know, but it's...it is taxpayer money and that's what drives a lot of the scrutiny so I appreciate you coming and giving us the information.

**Councilman Friend:** Nick, I...maybe you might be...this is a frightening question I need to ask. According to the last published audited financial statement by the State Board of Accounts, they've indicated the City had overpaid the ERA 3.6 million dollars, which honestly came out of the TIF originally. This payment happened in July of 2012. The...the...it goes back to there. Now my question is do you foresee that money moved back into the TIF where it should be, according to the State Board of Accounts, for funding; additional funding sources. Do you see that?

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** I have absolutely no way to know whether that would happen or not. I can follow up with Russ Lloyd and try to give you a...

**Councilman Friend:** Okay, I would appreciate that.

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:**...good answer for that but that is completely outside the scope of my activities here tonight.

**Councilman Friend:** Well I understand that. If you can find that out for me because Russ is not in the...I didn't see Russ so you're the guy to go to.

**President Adams:** Any other questions from members of Council about this project? Any comments from the crowd? I'm sorry; excuse me. Bob, would you...Mr. Warren, would you come up and give us your thoughts please? Thank you, Ms. Schuler.

**VPS Architect Schuler:** *(Off Mic) (Inaudible)*

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Thank you very much. I'm Bob Warren, Executive Director of the Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau and our organization has been involved in this hotel process now for about three years. We have provided all the information that has been requested by our office. We are obviously the sales and marketing arm behind this new hotel. What we do know is our organization supports a new hotel. We support 240 rooms.

As I passed out, a little bit earlier, some information that I think is very important. This is one of the tools that we use in determining the success or failure of our industry and I'd like to just walk you through a couple of pages if I will. This comes from two different weekly documents but to just give you an example, if I can go to Page 3, which is the first one highlighted, what you're going to see is a Jehovah Witness weekend where we actually ran a Thursday, Friday, Saturday of 92%, 96%, 93%. The following weekend, the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>: 93%, 94.8%, 90.9%. The following weekend, Shriner Fest weekend and we also had a Game Day ball tournament out at the new ball fields. We ran 88.2%, 93.1%. Fourth of July, actually considerably slower for our organization and industry, we ran only 62.1% and 66.7%.

If I get you to go to the next page, and then I'm just going to move past the Fourth of July because this is a joint document, the following weekend we had the IASA Diamonds of the South ball tournament out at our new complex. We ran 85.1% and 90.2%. Those are excellent numbers for our industry and it's...I think you're going to see by the next weekend, we had an NSA ~ BPA Heat Tournament and we had 63 tournament teams out there and we generated 82.7% and 93.3%.

The message I'm trying to send here is that when we start getting up into that 90% - 95% in terms of occupancy for our destination, we find ourselves in a position where we probably have fewer than 190 to 200 rooms left in our inventory of rooms. We're hoping that we can continue to develop through the meetings market to continue to grow our industry. The ball fields were not a burden on this council or the City. We have 14 million dollars in construction on that project.

This hotel we have been selling for a year and a half. We are out there in the marketplace constantly promoting and selling. Now this past week we had ISAE; first time ever in Evansville. They're the Indiana Society of Association Executives, the very association that represents all of the associations in the State of Indiana. They loved our product. They were here, we had a very successful meeting with them.

I brought something. Whenever I talk to you guys I seem to be talking in history because of the lengthy experience I've had in this industry. This is my hometown and this that you're about to see and I just thought I would share with you an image. There's only one person in this room that will know that this is and it's Doctor Adams. This is the University of Texas medical branch, like the IU med center. This was founded in 1891. It started out with 23 students and 13 faculty members. Today this same building is 70 buildings. It represents 2300 students and over 1000 faculty. The one thing that this group had, that it was very important to our process here, is that they had a full department that did nothing but meetings and conventions.

One of the most prestigious meetings that I've ever done in my entire career was the International Association of University Surgeons. I'm sure Dr. Adams has probably heard of that.

**President Adams:** Yeah.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Most prestigious group we've ever had.

We have done the numbers on this hotel. This...I've repeated 'em to you before and before. We know that from an occupancy and ADR (*Average Daily Rate*) standpoint, this hotel would generate an estimated 6.2 million dollars in room revenue. That room revenue is going to be spent on debt service, operations, and employees. That's a great figure to have, 6.2 million.

The other factor that's probably equally or more important is the money that is going to flow through our community in goods and services. There's a very basic formula that you use to calculate that. Ladies and gentlemen, that number is about 7 to 7.5 million dollars a year that is going to flow directly into our businesses and indirectly into the businesses that support that. It's not just attractions and museums and restaurants; it's banks and insurance companies and accounting firms and suppliers to the industry. This is big business for us and we're already, with this date approaching, we're already a year behind on this hotel so what we can say to the public is that we have lost 13.7 million dollars over the past year because we've got a year delay in this process and if we wait further, we can just keep multiplying that number but this is money that would be flowing into the businesses of our community. It helps support our industry and our industry is 560 million dollar industry that has over 6,400 employees in it.

We understand what you're doing in terms of due diligence. Our board supports this hotel. We would really like to see this hotel move forward and I'll be delighted to answer any questions that you have. I've got all sorts of facts and figures.

**Councilman Friend:** Bob, I need to ask you something. Have...has the bond, since we kind of moved this along fast, has the bonds been rated yet?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** I don't know that they have.

**Councilman Friend:** And can we find that out? And if...and when will they be sold? Do you know? When are they going to go to market?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Are we talking about *(Inaudible)*?

**Councilman Friend:** We're talking about the financing because we got...we got to have the money to move this forward.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** No, I mean...

**Councilman Friend:** Yeah.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:**...the hotel, I mean, that's...

**Councilman Friend:** Yeah.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:**...that's...

**Councilman Friend:** Oh yeah.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** That's the City's responsibility. I think what you have from us, you have a two million dollar commitment from us that is over and above the 20 million dollars and you have another million and half from the County so just so that I can reinforce, our board voted to support a two million dollar investment for ancillary buildings, walkovers and upgrades to the convention center. Our board did not vote to provide direct funding to hotel project.

**Councilman Friend:** Well I just need...can you answer that for me Nick?

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** The bond rating is being updated.

**Councilman Friend:** Is that being updated?



**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Yeah.

**Councilman Friend:** And...but obviously we have sold 'em yet because they have...they're being upgraded.

Do we know who's going to handle the bonds?

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** I think Fifth/Third.

**Councilman Friend:** Fifth/Third's going to be doing 'em?

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Yeah, I think that's the underwriter. Yeah. If I'm wrong I'll tell you.

**Councilman Friend:** Okay, that'd be great.

**Assistant City Attorney Cirignano:** Yeah.

**Councilman Friend:** Yeah, thanks.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Well I guess in closing, Councilman Friend, is I think if we look at what the cost of the bond issuance is going to be, I know we just did a bond issue once for 23 years for 14 million dollars to build a new ball park. We know what that annual debt service is you know, but when we look at what a 20 million costs or what 21 or 25 million costs, if you do it cost per million I think that that figure is considerably lower then what we would be spending, or losing, by not having a hotel. That 13.7 million dollars is real money.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Can I just say I...just looking at these docs...or these numbers, it says, "Census: Properties - 23". Is that an increase or decrease from the previous year?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** It's...

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Because you're comparing them to year over year and...

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** They're comparisons year over year, yes.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Yeah but the Census: Properties is not. It just says there's 23 reporting and there's 2,381 rooms.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Well we did have a loss of hotels. We've had the Clarion that closed and that was a 200-room inventory that came out of our supply.

*Speaking Simultaneously*

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So if you do that...

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** We are building some new hotels.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** So if you had...if you had, I mean that's a denominator issue so if you had the same number of...and I'm just...percentagewise, if you had 1000 people and you had, well, let's just say 2000 people and you had 2500 rooms, that's 80%. But if it's not 2300 rooms, you had 2000 people, it's now 86%. Right?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Yeah, that would be correct. Yes, sir.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Okay, so you're going to get this natural rise in the number of percent because you have a reduction in inventory.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** That would be correct. Yes, sir.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Okay.

**Councilman Friend:** Bob, one other question too. I think the Hunden report though...I get the...this is a good...great project. Hunden report though indicated that, I believe, 70% of business in the downtown hotel is going to come from existing business, from existing structures.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** That's not correct, Mr. Friend.

**Councilman Friend:** That's not the...that's not...?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** I don't want to do...I think the body of work that Rob Hunden did was a good body of work. I absolutely think that the body of work that he did was understated because of this: the new med center. And when you look at the body of work that was produced for him, and I'm going to give you my résumé for a second. Okay, when Ron Hunden first got into this industry, I was working on a 55 million dollar project which was a convention center expansion with his boss, Charlie Johnson, with CH Johnson & Associates so I've been working with these types of numbers for years. I think Mr. Hunden gave a very good body of work. I do believe that his numbers are understated. I would think that that number, in my opinion, is probably closer to 30% rather than 70%.

**Councilman Friend:** We paid \$219,000 for that report though; keep that in mind.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Well, you know you could have asked me that report and it wouldn't have cost you a dime.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I had a...

*Speaking Simultaneously*

**President Adams:** Any other questions? Yeah.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** Okay...okay, so I mean Conor's already made the point that is you do this comparative analysis to us of this year versus last year. You've got less hotel rooms so obviously that drives up your occupancy rate. And some of these weekends that you've isolated as demonstrating need for rooms, we actually did better last year under that same weekend so, for example, you've highlighted July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We actually had a higher occupancy rate with more hotel rooms a year ago and significantly more revenue.

So I mean I'm...I think this is, you know, when you drill down into your occupancy report that you've given us it's...

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** We could certainly sit here and talk about the occupancy report like eight...like Jehovah Witness as an example. That's a perfect example. They met in July last year; they met in June this year, so you're going to see a significant difference because they...they generally take up about 50% of our occupancy. It's a three million dollar piece of business and Jehovah Witness is asking us for more rooms that we can't provide them. So, you know, this is one of those challenges that we have as an industry.

Anytime, you know, the 200 room deficit that we have with the Clarion is just testing our industry. The rooms that you see in that report represent about 2/3 of the total rooms reporting to the Smith Travel Report so there's about 3300 rooms in our total inventory and the only way you can judge that is by our tax collections. Our tax collections last month were up 14.5%, you know, so a lot of times this is a tool that we use to monitor how we did over prior year. Prior year, we'll...I mean it is the measurement that our industry comes to us with every year and they review these documents and we understand the census and we understand the difference in supply and demand of those rooms, but I don't know if I'm answering your question but this...we know that we can add and I...I have a challenge that I would make with the amount of new business versus old business.

We did, when we had the old Executive, from 2006, and I've reported this to you before in public hearings, from 2006 to 2009 when we closed the Executive, we had 72 conferences on the books from 2006 to 2009. Only 13 of the 72 conferences displaced to other hotels. The rest of them, 59 of them, are lost. There're 59 conventions and

meetings and conferences that we have to go out and start recruiting again and so that's why the challenge of this 240-room hotel...we're out selling it and we see that these numbers are, for the most part, new business or business that we are bringing back to Evansville, not lost business, and that number's 6.2 million dollars a year in room revenue; 7.5 million dollars in goods and services.

**Councilman Friend:** Bob, one other question I need to ask you: What...do you have any numbers on the impact of the possibility, since we went land-based casinos, that the Trop may be considering another tower and what kind of impact would that have on this hotel?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** I think the Tropicana serves to do a lot of meeting business. It is the true overflow hotel for us unless we're working with religious groups. Religious groups will not go to the Tropicana so, you know, we have to displace...you know, we're going to be going after that 200 to 250-room business. That is the largest percentage of the conventions market. There are a lot of conventions, like the International Society of University Surgeons, that was probably 700 people plus spouses, you know, so those are out there and we can go after 'em but there the smaller percentage of the overall convention business.

Tropicana moving land-based; they're doing a million visitors a year. I think probably if I were Tropicana I would be really interested in this hotel being built because if 15% - 20% of that population visits the casino, they have just increased their volume by 17 to 18 thousand people a year.

**Councilman Friend:** Do you suspect that the...they're going to do some improvements on the Event Center is my understanding. Do you think that's an adequate amount of money to get it up to the levels that a lot of the conventions are demanding these days?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** They do. They do a reasonable amount of convention business now because there's only two facilities, really, in the City where we can occupy a larger scale meeting. You know if we're not using the Old National Events Plaza, with 280,000 square feet, then the two hotels that stand out are Tropicana and the Holiday Inn North. You know those are the only two that have sizable meeting space to accommodate meetings.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Can I ask you what are your assumptions to get to that 6.2 million number? What is the cost of a room per night?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Well according to what we've been told, they're using \$110.00 ADR,...

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Okay.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:**...65% annualized occupancy, you've got 300...240 rooms x 365 x 65% x \$110.00 ADR. That should be 6.2.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Okay so if a...sorry. If you use 6.2 million, divide that through by \$110.00 a night, ADR, that's 56,000 room nights. And you divide that through by...

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** 56,000, that's correct, yes.

**Councilman O'Daniel:**...365 days. That's 154 room nights every single day of the year, right? And that's new, organic business or is that displaced business?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** I think the majority of that...I think 70% of that's new business.

**Councilman Friend:** Bob, one the other thing too. I remember studying that Hunden report pretty closely. He said that the average convention probably won't even hap...this comes in the report; there'll only be about 100 people. That's what the report indicated. I mean do you disagree with that.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** I personally disagree with that. I mean if we are going to target organizations that have meetings that are 200 to 250 there are a ton of those meetings out here. I'm not sure where Mr. Hunden got that information and respect his work. He learned from one of the best guys in the business, Charlie Johnson, so I have to respect his work but I know what our market is here in Indiana and I've just met with ISAE and actually we had about 160 people with that organization so I can't speak to where Mr. Hunden got his information and I'm not going to embarrass Mr. Hunden by attempting to do so.

**Councilman Friend:** Well I guess that my concern from the standpoint of the Events Plaza is that they do a lot of weddings; they do a lot of things over there now because it is a large place but it appears that in the prospectus...I mean in the pro formas that they were being ran on the hotel they had to try to grab ahold of that business and if you have a lot of business that you lose over there because it's more likely the weddings are going to go back to the hotel, my concern is the net/net difference between the conventions that have that it's a net number. That doesn't increase the revenue. This is just what I felt.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** That's an argument that you can have. Let me throw something else at you though. We just built a 16.5 million dollar ball field complex that is servicing almost all of our east end and north hotels. That...we

anticipate 180,000 to 200,000 new visitors in our community based on that project. This convention center hotel will not get any of that business, you know. So I mean it's a...I think we're trading; we're trading dollars here for what we believe are...what should be new business.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** And one more.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Sure.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I just a...I think what I heard John say was that this hotel is going to have about 14,000 square foot of meeting space itself and I think we've all anticipated up to this point that that was frankly a tradeoff to the developer and that he's going to siphon off a lot of the small business that, you know, for people that are having a wedding reception at The Centre, they're now going to move that to this hotel and that those small, well, whatever would take 14,000 square feet or less, and so I think that's what I heard you say when you talk about net/net is that I mean I think some of...and look, I mean it's, you know, the ship has sailed but is The Centre really any better off when it loses its small business. Of course you disagree with Rob Hunden. I mean Rob's point was that only about 30% of the new hotel's business is going to be convention business and so your theory kind of throws that all off.

*Speaking Simultaneously*

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** And again, I apologize for challenging Rob Hunden but let me, you know, this is another body of work that I gave this community, or gave this Council, when we were asked to do an analysis of convention center hotels and their meeting space. They're...we could not find a convention center hotel that lacked meeting space and I have the summary of that document in my office and would be glad to provide it and it will give you the square footage and the number of meeting space by square foot that these various convention center hotels have.

**Councilman Friend:** Yeah, like you said Bob, I think the report only said between 12 to 30 conventions would be a sell-out. I think that's what the report said. That's another *(Inaudible)*.

*Speaking Simultaneously*

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** We know we've lost 59 groups here.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Over four years though.

**Councilman Friend:** Over four years.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** That's 15 a year, right?

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Yeah, over four years. Correct. When I left Galveston, Texas we just built the new 55,000 square foot addition to our convention center, we had 19 city-wide conventions on the books. You know so that, I mean, this is a business of selling, you know, and I...you cannot compete. The thing that you can't do is that 7.5 million dollars that's going to flow into the businesses of this community. That's an argument. The 6.5 million is going to be spent on lodging. You know that's going to go to debt service and operations and paying taxes. Yeah, we're going to get about \$500,000 out of that number to support our projects, whether it be marketing and promotion or what we're going to do with future development of things like our park and the zoo and other things that we make investments into.

I've taken a lot of your time and I told you I'd be brief.

**President Adams:** No, no. No, no. You've been very kind to be here. I just want to take us back just to one little statement you made. I share your zeal for this project but this particular body has not caused the delay for the year. My comment...

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** I didn't...I didn't indicate that.

**President Adams:** Well, you made the comment that this project's been delayed for a year but this body did not cause that delay and I think part of the problem is this continued delay. I'm kind of a fish or cut bait guy and I think it's time to fish. And so I think I would like to see dirt fly. This prolonged waiting that we applied so many years ago needs to happen and once it gets going, once the momentum is there, once we see steel in the sky, then it's a done deal; but as long as it's out there sort of as an ethereal vapor I think we're still having questions.

And so the proof of the pudding, of all the projections that we've talked about tonight, will be where it is three to four or five years from now.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** And may I close with one comment and then that's...

**President Adams:** Sure.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** When, you know, when you're looking at this convention center hotel you are absolutely right. It's not...it's not anybody's fault but the delay will continue to cost us money and, you know, and I think that's relevant. If we wait another year that number's not seven million in direct expenditures, its 14 million dollars in direct expenditures.

And so, you know, we certainly encourage moving forward on this project. We are selling the hotel right now but we can't get anybody to really buy it because we haven't

broken ground. I've got General Baptists standing in the wings, we got other meetings, we've been going to travel trade shows selling the hotel but, what they're telling us is, "When you break ground and we know that there's a completion date, you come see us".

**President Adams:** Well there's no...there's no question that, I mean, when you threw out that 240 rooms, years ago, I have to admit I went and got independent backing from outside the city. And you're right; you need the 240 beds for the kind of conventions you (*Inaudible*). Once we got that med school downtown, that was the game changer for me and from my point of view we just need to get this built.

**Unidentified Speaker:** (*Off Mic*) Amen!

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Got to get it built.

**President Adams:** It's not...it's not the Cadillac that we talked about but you know what? Life is that way.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** its 240 rooms...

**President Adams:** Yeah.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:**...that we need in our market.

**President Adams:** Here we go. Okay. Any other questions? Any other statements. Great. Thank you so much.

**ECVB Executive Director Warren:** Thank you very much.

**President Adams:** Okay, we have one last...well, one scheduled last one. Keith Vonderahe, City Attorney's Office, would like to come forth and discuss civil rights cases and update that for us.

**Assistant City Attorney Vonderahe:** Good evening. Keith Vonderahe, one of the City Attorneys.

**President Adams:** Thank you for wait...being so patient.

**Assistant City Attorney Vonderahe:** Oh, no problem.

I think about four or five meetings ago there was a question about the number of civil rights lawsuits here in the City and then I believe two weeks ago the question was



brought up again. I was asked to come here and give that information so that's what I'm here to report on this evening.

First off, the question that I was told was asked two weeks ago was, "Do we have five pending civil rights actions against the Police Department and the City?" We do not; we have seven, okay?

Now let me put that in perspective to you this way okay? From 2012, January 1 of 2012 to January...or to December 31 of 2014, there were 18,569 arrests in the City of Evansville. In that three-year time period, there were only three cases brought against the Police Department so that's less than 1/10,000<sup>th</sup> of a percent, so I think that's a pretty good average.

The other...so that's three of the seven cases. The other four cases were incidents that occurred in 2009, '10, and two of 'em in '11 and those occurred and are...at least one of them is being handled by the prior legal department for the City because that case has been pending for so long. And that's the number of cases that we have. Questions?

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** I read in the newspaper...tell me what the landscape looks like related to just tort claims. I noticed, and it's very unfortunate, what happened to the jogger that was hit by the drunk driver at Fulton on the Greenway. I mean I think the Greenway claim probably interested some of us as we intend to bend...to build a tremendous amount more of Greenway-type linear parks so what's going on with those? Do you have...because obviously that's a potential...although I think that's a capped-type of lawsuit. Where are you at on just civil in general?

**Assistant City Attorney Vonderahe:** I can speak to you in a general sense. I will know more numbers when the audit for 2014 is requested by the State Board of Accounts. It hasn't happened yet. As you're aware, maybe other Councilmembers are not, a tort claim is just a letter that a claimant sends to the City, or a municipality, to put us on notice that we might be sued. The claimant has six months from the date of the injury to do that so...and quite frankly most of those are not against the Police Department, which is what I was here to speak about tonight. The majority of those come in the winter months because there's a theory that if there's a pothole and you hit a pothole that the City pays for it.

I can give you numbers of active tort claims if Council wants those.

**Councilwoman Brinkerhoff-Riley:** *(Off Mic)* Well it just interested me because you kinda get to where *(Inaudible)* you have a third party administrator *(Inaudible)* process it all: the Worker's Comp, unemployment, and slip and fall type *(Inaudible)*.

I just was curious. If you don't know them (*Inaudible*). I just was curious because these...we all saw the tort claim that was...(*Mic On*)...we all saw the tort claim just because it ran in the newspaper and sort of the horrible injuries that occurred with the doctor so that's the only reason I asked was because that's...what kind of liability was out there and because you also have the JWAF work so...

**Assistant City Attorney Vonderahe:** Any other questions from Council? Great.

**President Adams:** Thank you so much for coming...

**Assistant City Attorney Vonderahe:** Thank you very much.

**President Adams:**...and clearing that up for us; appreciate it.

**Assistant City Attorney Vonderahe:** Have a good evening.

**President Adams:** Is there anyone else would like to speak tonight on any subject? Okay. Sorry?

**Councilman O'Daniel:** (*Off Mic*) National Night Out.

**President Adams:** Well, we're not quite there. My colleague to my left, Councilman O'Daniel, asked me to talk about a subject. I think I'd let him talk about it because he was the wise one that reminded me to talk about it.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** Well we've got Nat...before our next meeting we'll have National Night Out. It's the first Tuesday in August; I guess it's the fourth if I'm not mistaken. So that'll be at Wesselman Park again and encourage everybody to get out and support the people who make this City great.

**President Adams:** It's a great night.

**Stan Wheeler:** (*Off Mic*) Conor, mention the shuttle service from the old stadium lot.

**Councilman O'Daniel:** And we've been informed that there will be a shuttle service from the old stadium lot to a...to get folks there because otherwise you'll be walking across the golf course and parking's a mess there sometimes, isn't it.

**President Adams:** Okay. Committee Reports; Public Works Committee.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JULY 10, 2015**

### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:**

Re: **Ordinance G-2015-20**

Time: 5:20 p.m.

Notify: Marco DeLucio

### **CHAIRMAN AL LINDSEY**

Amend the Fluoridation Standards for the City  
Water Supply in the City of Evansville, Indiana

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Re: **Ordinance F-2015-11**

Time: 5:25 p.m.

Notify: Russ Lloyd

### **CHAIRMAN CONOR O'DANIEL**

Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations,  
Additional Appropriations and Repeal and  
Re-appropriations of Funds for Various  
City Funds

### **A.S.D. COMMITTEE**

Nothing scheduled at this time

### **CHAIRWOMAN STEPHANIE BRINKERHOFF-RILEY**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

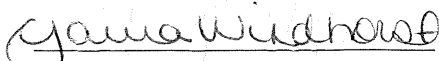
**President Adams:** Is there a motion to adjourn?


**Councilman O'Daniel:** So moved.

**Councilwoman Mosby:** Second.

**President Adams:** All those in favor? So be it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

  
Laura Windhorst, City Clerk

  
H. Dan Adams, President